

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

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1 1. (Currently amended) A collapsible steering column
2 assembly for a vehicle, the assembly including, a steering
3 column mounting bracket having, at a forward end thereof,
4 ~~itself being mountable on a vehicle body part, there being~~
5 a deformable component that supports a lower subassembly of
6 said steering column ~~is joined to the mounting bracket and~~
7 ~~that can collapse in the event of a vehicle crash thereby~~
8 to absorb energy.

1 2. (Currently amended) An assembly according to claim 1,
2 wherein the deformable component is unitary integral with
3 the mounting bracket.

1 3. (Currently amended) An assembly according to claim 1,
2 wherein the mounting bracket supports an upper subassembly
3 and said lower subassembly ~~subassemblies~~ of the steering
4 column.

1 4. (Original) An assembly according to claim 3,
2 wherein the upper and lower subassemblies are slidably
3 mounted one on the other.

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1 5. (Currently amended) An assembly according to claim 1,
2 wherein the deformable component has a normal positional
3 relationship with the mounting bracket in which it is
4 restrained by at least one locating device means.

1 6. (Currently amended) An assembly according to
2 claim 5, wherein the locating device means comprises at
3 least one slot in the mounting bracket and a locating pin
4 on the deformable component.

1 7. (Currently amended) An assembly according to claim 6,
2 wherein there are two such said locating devices having
3 respective slots and locating pins that mate with their
4 respective slots.

1 8. (Original) An assembly according to claim 6, wherein
2 the slot is an open slot.

1 9. (Currently amended) An assembly according to claim 5,
2 wherein the locating device means comprises at least one
3 slot in the deformable component and a locating pin on the
4 mounting bracket.

W 1 10. (Currently amended) An assembly according to claim 9
2 1, wherein there are two such said locating devices having
3 respective slots and locating pins that mate with their
4 respective slots.

1 11. (Original) An assembly according to claim 9, wherein
2 the slot is an open slot.

1 12. (Original) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein
2 the deformable component comprises at least one stiff strip
3 so configured as to provide a region of weakness about
4 which the strip can be bent and thus collapsed upon
5 receiving a compressive force along the length of the
6 strip.

1 13. (Currently amended) A collapsible steering column
2 assembly for a vehicle, the assembly including, a steering
3 column mounting bracket having at a forward end thereof a

4 deformable component that supports a lower subassembly of
5 said steering column and that can collapse in the event of
6 a vehicle crash thereby to absorb energy, wherein the
7 deformable component comprises at least one stiff strip so
8 configured as to provide a region of weakness about which
9 the strip can be bent and thus collapsed upon receiving a
10 compressive force along the length of the strip, and An
11 ~~assembly according to claim 12~~ wherein said strip has one
12 end that is joined to the mounting bracket and another end
13 that is free, said free end of the strip forming a mounting
14 for a pivot member.

1 14. (Currently amended) An assembly according to claim 13
2 10, wherein the pivot member supports a universal joint
3 bearing assembly of the steering column.

1 15. (Currently amended) An assembly according to claim 1,
2 further including and having a provision for rake and/or
3 reach adjustment of the steering column.

1 16. (New) A collapsible steering column assembly for a
2 vehicle, comprising:

3 upper and lower subassemblies that are slidable one
4 within the other;

5 the upper subassembly being slidably mounted on a
6 fixed mounting bracket mountable on a vehicle body part;

7 the mounting bracket including, at its end remote from
8 the upper subassembly, a deformable bracket supporting said
9 lower subassembly and capable of deformation toward the
10 upper subassembly so as to allow movement of said lower
11 subassembly toward said upper subassembly in the event of a
12 vehicle crash.

1 17. (New) A collapsible steering column assembly for a
2 vehicle, comprising:

3 upper and lower subassemblies that are slidable one
4 within the other;

5 the upper subassembly being slidably mounted on a
6 fixed mounting bracket mountable on a vehicle body part;

7 the mounting bracket including, at its end remote from
8 the upper subassembly, a deformable bracket supporting said
9 lower subassembly and capable of deformation toward the
10 upper subassembly to absorb impact of a primary collision.
